

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The paragraph on page 2 lines 2 to 3 of the specification has been amended to use the language recommended by the Patent and Trademark Office for reference to a related provisional patent application.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have affirmed the election of the invention of group I, claims 1-24, by canceling claims 25-38 without prejudice to prosecute claims 25-38 in a divisional application.

In response to the objection to claim 19, this objection has been obviated by the cancellation of claim 19.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-7, 18-21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103, these claims have been cancelled.

In response to the indication that claims 8-17, 22, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, claims 8, 15, 16, 17, and 22 have been rewritten in independent form. (Claims 9-14 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8, and claim 23 depends from claim 22.) In addition, claim 15 has been amended to insert further antecedent basis for "GOP index" and "groups of pictures (GOPs)".

In view of the above, reconsideration is respectfully requested, and early allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Official Action of 07/01/2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Auchterlonie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being more prominent.

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